GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2890
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
COAL BED METHANE GAS HYDRATES
V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal bed methane and gas hydrates have been identified as important alternatives for petroleum products;

(b) if so, whether commercial production of coal bed methane and hydrates has commenced;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (d): Coal Bed Methane(CBM) and Gas Hydrates have been identified as alternative sources of energy.Commercial production of CBM can only be undertaken if the commercial viability is established through exploration.Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. (GEECL) have already undertaken activities relating to exploration of CBM in two blocks. Under the CBM Policy 7 blocks in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and West Bengal have recently beer offered under international competitive bidding system with the bid closing date of 31.8.2001.

The activities worldwide relating to gas hydrates are in Research & Development stage only, since no proven technology is available for commercial production of gas hydrates.